

VZCZCXRO0047
PP RUEHFK
DE RUEHKO #0547 0380359
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 070359Z FEB 07
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0443
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 9799
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 3267
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5728
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1501
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 1809
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 3201
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 000547

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [JA](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - CRITICISM OF IRAQ WAR - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Wednesday morning's business daily Nihon Keizai Shimbun front-paged a report that Toyota Motor posted a net profit of more than 1 trillion yen in the April-December period.

¶1. "How About Voicing Criticism Directly to Cheney?" An editorial in the liberal Asahi stated (2/7): "Defense Minister Kyuma and Foreign Minister Aso have made remarks critical of US policy in Iraq. Kyuma questioned America's justification for the launch of the war and said that the decision to initiate hostilities was a mistake. Aso, meanwhile, called the US occupation of Iraq 'naive.'... We suspect that many people not just in Japan but around the world share these cabinet ministers' opinions. In fact, criticism is also growing even in the US.... What does Prime Minister Abe think of the postwar chaos in Iraq? Now that the cabinet ministers charged with diplomatic and national security affairs have expressed doubts about America's Iraq policy, PM Abe should clearly explain his own thoughts to the nation.... It is only to be expected that the US is curious about the true motives behind these remarks, even though they were made at informal events. Vice President Cheney will visit Japan starting on February 20, so we would suggest that these cabinet members directly convey their thoughts to him."

SCHIEFFER